

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT APPROVAL _____

STATE BOARD MEETING DATE June 25, 2007

SUBJECT: Obelisk Presentation to Milken National Educator Award Recipients

SUBMITTED BY: Ms. Adria Lugo, Director, Special Projects and Constituent
Services, Arizona Department of Education

MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW: June 7, 2007

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards program provides public recognition and financial rewards to elementary and secondary schoolteachers, principals and other education professionals who are furthering excellence in education. By honoring outstanding educators, the program strives to attract, develop, motivate and retain talented people to the challenge and adventure of teaching.

This year, two Arizona teachers were selected to receive this prestigious award, along with a monetary award of \$25,000. Mr. Marco Ramirez, principal of Pueblo Gardens Elementary School in the Tucson Unified School District, and Mrs. Laura Lyman, 3rd grade teacher at Ishikawa Elementary School in the Mesa School District were both notified at surprise all school assemblies.

We would like to formally acknowledge their achievements, and have Superintendent Horne present them with their 2006 Milken National Educator obelisks.

We like to start the presentation with a short video, present the obelisks, and then end with a veteran Milken educator saying a few words about the Arizona Milken Network, and how they may be available to assist the State Board.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: ☒ **INFORMATION**

☐ **ACTION/DESCRIBED BELOW**

Attachments: Yes ☐ No ☒

Marco Ramirez

Despite being principal of a school with a very high poverty rate, Marco Ramirez has helped students at Pueblo Gardens Elementary School in Tucson become the district's top achievers. His almost entirely Hispanic student population scored 11 percent above the district average in math and posted an 8 percent gain in reading mastery on the state assessment. During the 2004-2005 school year, Pueblo Gardens was the state's only Title I school to be designated a Highly Performing School. Mr. Ramirez has helped achieve this success in part by supporting his teachers' use of technology to differentiate instruction and enhance learning, and ensuring that all teachers are trained in the SIOP (Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol) approach to delivering the curriculum. In addition to his school leadership, Mr. Ramirez is an educational consultant, has served on the Arizona Department of Education's Best Practices Conference Committee, and has presented at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM). His school's low teacher turnover and high student achievement are living proof of Mr. Ramirez's excellence as an educator.

Laura Lyman

Though the most challenging students are often placed in her classroom, third-grade teacher Laura Lyman helps all of her students progress beyond expectations at Ishikawa Elementary School in Mesa. A master of differentiated instruction, Ms. Lyman expertly adapts to the individual needs of each student and uses visuals, costumes, voices and drawings to engage and actively involve her students. Their test scores are consistently high, with nearly all mastering the state's math and reading standards. Ms. Lyman became a certified reading specialist to provide her students with the most effective reading instruction possible. She leads the school's third-grade team and is the primary lead teacher for the reading design team, a group of in-school experts on reading acquisition. As a culminating activity for a reading lesson on the International Summer Olympics, Ms. Lyman's students hold an outdoor event called the Third-Grade Olympics. Just one more way that this outstanding educator is helping turn children into champions.